

THE
R U I N E
OF THE
BANK of *England*,
AND ALL
PUBLICK-CREDIT,
INEVITABLE:

A N D

The Necessity, in a short Time, of Stop-
ping the Payments upon the several
FUNDS to the *Bank*, *South-Sea Company*,
Lotteries, &c. if the Honourable House
of Commons will not themselves be
Judges of the Means that may be Offer'd
to prevent it.

Printed in the Year MDCC XV.

THE
RUNNERS

OF THE

BANK OF ENGLAND

AND ALL

PUBLIC CREDIT

IN THE

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The necessity in a short time of stop-
ping the payments upon the several
Bills to the Bank, & to the Company,
&c. &c. if the Honourable House
of Commons will not themselves be
Judge of the Means that may be Order'd
to prevent it.

Printed in the Year MDCCXV.



O make Good what is asserted in the Title-Page, I desire the Reader to consider the following *Particulars* (without expecting any Arguments to prove them, because they are so obvious and plain that they do not need any) *viz*;

That the *Nation* is under the Burthen of a very great *Debt*.

That the *Ways* and *Means* to raise Money grow very scarce, and are hard and difficult to be found.

That the *Government* has occasion for the Money that is given by *Parliament* in any Year, to be advanc'd to them as soon as possible after it is given.

That the *Bank of England*, that supplies the *Government* upon several Occasions, is liable from several Causes, that are not unlikely to happen, to be run upon.

That a *Run* upon the *Bank of England* would cause the same, or a *Scarcity of Money*; or more properly, would stop the *Circulation*, and raise the *Price and Interest of Money* both to the *Government*, and to particular Persons.

That if many things had not most happily concur'd (to instance but two of many, the *Removal of the Treasurer* and the *unanimous Consent*, in Acknowledging and Proclaiming his Majesty) upon the *Demise* of the Late Queen, the *Bank* had been Run upon.

That the *Bank*, supposing a *Run* upon them, and the common and unavoidable Effects of it upon Money in other Hands, as *Goldsmiths*, *Scriveners*, and *Private Persons*, would not be able in the least to serve the Government, nor support themselves.

That though the Money from the *Land* and *Malt Tax*, is so certainly paid, supposing a *Run* upon the *Bank*, it would not be advanced to the Government from any other Hands but at a very dear Rate, in as much, as is observ'd before, that a *Run* upon the *Bank of England* stops the *Circulation*, and raises the *Price* of Money every where else.

That the *Land* and *Malt Tax*, even the first at 4s. in the Pound, will not amount to sufficient to supply the Yearly Occasion of the Government now, and much less if a *War* should happen.

That to make up a Sum sufficient, especially in the last Case (of a War) there must every Year be some *Fund*, Old or New, found out to Mortgage for it.

That since, as above, supposing a *Run* upon the *Bank*, the Money arising from the *Land* and *Malt Tax* (which is so regularly paid) will not be advanced to the Government but at a high rate of Interest; it will unavoidably follow, that the Money from any *Fund* that can be thought of to Mortgage, will not be paid into the *Exchequer*, but at a much higher and at an excessive Rate, because the Money from such *Fund* will not come in, to reimburse those who advance it, in less than 10, 15 20 or more Years.

That what ever the Government may be forc'd to give for advancing of Money, as in the foregoing Article, is a downright Loss, and will make those *Taxes* and *Funds* fall so much short of what they really produce.

That the *Nation* being under such sad Circumstances, the difficulty will, in all humane probability, continue and increase, and the *Bank* will be utterly unable to recover its *Credit*.

That

That the *Government* was under great Difficulties, when the *Bank* stopt Payment in King *William's* Time, tho' there were then *many Ways* to raise Money, and now (God pity us) there are but very few.

That when the *Bank* was *Run upon*, in King *William's* Reign, it was but a small Stock to what it is now, and tho' indeed, there are now more Adventurers in the *Bank*, and some of prodigious Estates to what they had then, yet neither the one nor the other, nor both together, bear any proportion to the Difference that is between *Twelve Hundred Thousand Pounds*, (their Stock then) and *Five Millions*, their present Stock.

That though those of the Adventurers that are in the *Bank* now are as it were Giants in Estate, and in case of a *Run*, will make their utmost Efforts to recover the *Credit* of the *Bank*, they will not be able to do it, if it be consider'd that they are not Rich in *Money*, nor are they able to procure *Specie* upon Occasion of a *t*rough *Run* in any Proportion to what themselves or the World reckon them to be worth. And it is *Specie* onely that will serve at such a Time. The *Bank* indeed stands upon the same Legs that it ever did, to wit, the *Government Security*; but the Superstructure, *the Body*, is now so vastly Great and Bulky, so many *Millions*, that if it Falls, it may be easily conceiv'd by any considering Man, that all the Adventurers, and all their Friends into the Bargain, will not be able to help it up again.

I will mention but one *Particular* more, and that is, That whatever can be thought on to raise Money upon for the future, the Nation are made to believe, is much more than in Reality those things will produce; and I have been lately told since I came to Town, by several Honest, Sensible and Wealthy Men, upon asking them how Money will be Raised for the Government, that it will be done very easily, by such and such ways, for so much, and that for *Eight Hundred Thousand Pounds* (to compleat this Year's Service) the *South-Sea Company* will Advance it at six *per Cent.* upon Condition that the Government bind it self not to Redeem any part of the

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Ten Millions that will be then owing to the said Company, in less than 16 or 21 Years. And here I must tell the Reader, that I was struck with great Surprize and Concern upon the very mentioning of this *Condition*; and others would be Frightned too, if I might have *Liberty* to make some plain and honest Observations upon this *Bargain*.

From the several forementioned *Particulars*, any Man, that will consider and Compute things, will see, that in a short time, there can be no other way to Raise Money for the Government, than by stopping the Payment of the *Exchequer*, upon the several *Funds*, which, with the *Land* and *Malt Tax*, will raise the necessary Sums for every Year's Expence, tho' indeed with this Inconveniency and Loss, that since the *Publick Faith* will then be *Broke*, the Government can have no Credit, and must deal with People at a Dear Price, for every thing they shall have Occasion for, as they did in King *William's* time; and so much the Incomes of those *Funds* will fall short to the Government of what they do really produce.

This indeed is very *Dreadful* to think on, and will put many thousand Families under the greatest *Consternation and Distress*; but it is *unavoidable*, if there be not speedily some Way found out and fallen upon, to lessen the Nation's Debt.

And now it will be thought very odd, that having Ventured to speak so much of the *great Evils* that are like to befall the Nation, I should have any reason to be afraid to offer a *Remedy*; And indeed, without I had a *Remedy* to offer, and what I can make it appear to be so to others, if I might be permitted to do it, I would never have said any thing upon this *Melancholy Subject*.

About one or two and twenty Years since, I joyn'd with Four others in an *Undertaking* which we kept to our selves, until we shewed it to his Majesty King *William*; he apprehended it, and liked it extreamly, and bid us go on with it, as a thing that would be much for the *Publick Good*; but the King going Abroad soon after he had seen the *Proposal*, we
were

were stopt in our proceeding in it, in a way very Unjust, but not proper to be mentioned.

Some time after, the very same Persons offer'd first to his Majesty a *Scheme for a Bank*, and to supply the Government with a *Million or Fifteen Hundred Thousand Pounds*; the King liked that also very well; and directed Sir *John Trenchard*, then Secretary of State, to treat with us about it; who did all that was proper for him to do, with a great deal of Easiness and Civility, and without seeming at any time in the least *weary of us*. Afterwards we went to the *Treasury*, and my Lord *Godolphin* did also Treat with us in a way becoming his Wisdom and the Duty of his Office; he was willing to understand the *Proposal*, and did not Discourage us in the Explaining of it. And that this also was not perfected, though something like it, to wit, the *Bank of England*, came immediately up in the room of it; I acquit every Person who were Subscribers in it, or any who have been since, or now are concerned in the *Bank*, of the least Fault.

In the Autumn of the Year 1695. An Honest and Ingenious Friend of mine, a *Scotch Gentleman*, Importun'd me one Day, to think of a *Bank for Scotland*; I told him I had done with framing of *Schemes for Banks*, and all other *Publick Societies*, and resolv'd (as in some measure I had done a few Years before) to lead a Country Life; he reply'd, that I should have an *Act of Parliament upon my own Conditions*; upon this I immediately drew so much of the *Constitution*, as was necessary to be in the Act, and in three or four Days, he brought me a formal Bill, Drawn up in the *Scotch Stile*; and he told me, that he had spoken with most of his Nation that were in Town, and that he had good reason to believe the *Bill* would pass that Session (he being then going to *Scotland*) according to the *Draught*, which it did accordingly. Upon this, Subscriptions were taken for Twelve Hundred Thousand Pounds *Scots*, which is One Hundred Thousand Pounds *Sterling*. And I agreed to go down, stay there, and return upon my own Charge;

Charge; but they generously ordered a Noble Present to be made to my Wife, more than my Charge amounted to; and though they were utter Strangers to a *Bank*, and that all the time I was there, the *Bank of England* could not pay their *Bills*, but a great Discount was upon them, and although we had many Enemies, we obtained, in about two Months time, a strange *Credit* upon our *Bills*. And although not hardly one of the *Rules* that I offer'd for the Management and carrying on the *Bank* was at first understood, but objected against; yet they were all, upon Debate, agreed to. And, to the Honour of those Gentlemen, I must say, That I dont remember, I met with more than one that made any Objection, out of Humour, but purely to find out the best Way for carrying on the Thing; which to this Day has been greatly to the Advantage of the Subscribers, and a very Advantageous Influence it has had upon the Nation in general.

I agreed with them for a *Proportion* of the general Profits, which not coming out so much to my Advantage, as they were pleased to think I deserved, they of their own accord, a few Years since, altered the *Contract* in my Favour, to the Value of several Thousand Pounds. I could give other Instances of the Justice, Civility and Generosity of the *Scots* Nation, and all done with that handsome Address, that made, in my Opinion, a great Addition to the real Advantages I have had from them.

I must needs say, that though I have left off Business for about twenty Years, and I think the way I Live in, is the most Rational and Pleasant in the World; I could yet spend a good part of my time in doing the Business of a *Bank*. And I have, notwithstanding I Live a perfect Country Life, spent some time in contriving *Schemes*, that I thought might be for the *Publick* good. And just before the late Ministry, my Thoughts were more than ordinarily Employed to find out some way to help the Government, with respect to it's *Debts*, and for Relief of the *Poor*; and I had Perfected my *Scheme* about the

the time of the Change of the Ministry ; which I laid by until his Majesties Happy Accession to the Throne.

I thank God I have a due Value for the Privileges I enjoy, both for my Body and Soul, as I am an *English-man* and a *Protestant* ; and I have very much at Heart the Prosperity of my Family, Friends and Country, and so cannot but be touch'd with a more than ordinary Concern, when I consider the *wretched and dangerous Condition* we are now in, by reason of our vast *Debts and heavy Taxes* ; and as I apprehend (would to God I was mistaken) we are in a little time to *run quite out at Heels*, and have nothing left to Tax. This, with the dreadful Prospect that I have before me, of being under a Necessity to take hold of the *Funds*, made me think that the *Proposal* I have been speaking of would readily be hearken'd to ; so I examined it over again, in every Part, and found it would enable the Government to redeem some of the *Funds*, and to have Money at a lower Rate, for the time to come, than ever they have yet had any ; and that it would ease and help the *Landed-Men*, and serve many other good Ends, and all in a *most just and easie Way*.

The very first Person, besides my Son, that I communicated this Design to, is a Lord of great Virtue, Judgment and Affection to the present Government ; he was much pleas'd with the *Proposal*, and offered to do all he could to promote it. I told his Lordship I should be glad of his Opinion, to whom I should send it ; for if it fell into *improper Hands* it might come to nothing ; Three were nam'd, two of them were my Lord *Townshend* and Mr. *Walpole*, and my Lord in the Country sent my Letter and *Proposal* to my Lord *Townshend* ; the First Paragraph of my Letter runs thus ;

“ My Lord,
 “ **Y**OUR Zeal for the Publick Good, encourages me to
 “ lay before your Lordship the following *Proposal*,
 “ which will not answer the Good Ends for which it is intended,
 “ if it be not well consider'd and digested, by Persons of Judgment, and who are in the true Interest of the Nation, be-

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“ fore

“ fore it be made Publick; for some out of *Ignorance*, some out
 “ of *Pride* or *ill Humour* (liking nothing but what may be
 “ thought their own Invention); and some who have no good
 “ Wishes for the Government, will otherwise obstruct it,
 “ and make it much harder to accomplish.

And because I did wish it might be communicated to his Majesty (King *William* so readily apprehending and approving of both the *Proposals* before-mentioned) another Paragraph runs thus;

“ We have a most Wise and Gracious King, and it will be
 “ both His Glory and Pleasure to help the *Poor*, and make others
 “ of His Subjects easie. Common Fame speaks him to be a
 “ Prince that understands Accompts, and, with a more than
 “ ordinary Application, looks into and manages his Revenue;
 “ a very happy Qualification, both for himself and for the Na-
 “ tion, and by which will be sav’d to a very great Value,
 “ which otherwise will be lost or squander’d away. This Tem-
 “ per of his Majesty will bring *Proposals*, that may be offer’d
 “ for the *Publick Good*, under his immediate Notice and Judg-
 “ ment, and having his Approval, will, if necessary, go through
 “ the *Parliament* with great Ease.

The *Answer* my Lord *Townshend* was pleased to give to it, was, *That he thought it would be a hard matter to get over the Ob-
 jection of the Bank of England*; and hearing nothing more from *London* for some time, I wrote to my Lord in the Country, who was pleas’d to return this Answer;

“ I do assure you I did recommend your *Proposal* not only to
 “ to my *Ld. Townshend*, but also to *Mr. Walpole*, and earnestly
 “ begg’d that they would give it a very particular *Considera-
 tion*, both upon the account of the Importance of the Thing
 “ it self, and the great Advantage it might bring to the Go-
 “ vernment, and also on the account of the *Proposer*, whom I
 “ did with Justice represent as a Person of *Worth* and *Substance*,
 “ and particularly skill’d in Affairs of this Nature. I am sorry
 “ that they have not yet taken so much Notice of it as it well
 “ deserves;

“ deserves ; possibly the Business of *Elections*, or some other
 “ *Matters* may have put it out of their Heads. I shall write
 “ by to Morrow’s Post to to put both of them, parti-
 “ cularly Mr. *Walpole*, in mind of it, and desire that they will
 “ hear what you have to say to the *Objection* of the *Bank*, or
 “ any other Difficulties that may occur to them, before they
 “ reject the *Proposal* ; which I am sure I heartily wish may
 “ take effect.

To this *Letter* of my Lord’s, the *Answer* of the 7th Feb. was to
 this Effect ; “ That the *Proposal* would be more nearly confi-
 “ der’d, when they come together to consider of those *Matters* ;
 “ that Mr. *Walpole* had not been in Town since it came, but
 “ was suddenly expected, &c.

Hearing nothing more of the matter, I wrote to a Friend of
 mine in *London*, the 9th of *March*, and sent him my *Proposal*,
 which he deliver’d to Mr. *Walpole* ; from whom he had no *Answer*
 until some few days after I came to Town, which was the be-
 ginning of *April* ; his *Answer* was to this Effect ; “ That the
 “ Government had often occasion to use the *Bank of England*,
 “ and ’twas not convenient to do any thing that might diso-
 “ blige them.

Being in Town, I apply’d to several Gentlemen, some of
 them Members of *Parliament*, they lik’d the *Proposal*, and were
 willing to do any thing they could to promote it ; but how to
 bring it into the *House*, and have a *Committee* appointed to confi-
 der it, and for me to have an opportunity to Explain it, was a
 Difficulty, since some, whose Province it is more particularly to
 consider Affairs of that Nature, did not seem to countenance
 the *Proposal*, nor were so much as willing to hear what I could say
 upon it. Several Gentlemen, to whom I communicated the
 Thing, told me, That if I had not the Approval of one Gentleman,
 I should meet with great Obstruction ; That if I had his Blessing,
 were the Thing good, more or less, it might easily pass ; and that I might
 probably, in a short time, see my own *Proposal* in another dress, without
 any Notice or Regard to me, brought into the House of Commons.

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The *Proposal*, that I sent to my Lord *Townshend* and Mr. *Walpole*, was, That the *Government* should have *half* the Profits of a *Joynt Stock* proposed to be Subscribed; That the other *half* should be divided between the *Adventurers* in the said *Stock* and the *Poor*; but considering afterwards, that the *Government* was for ready Money, I so far altered the *Proposal*, that One Million should be paid to the *Government*, upon a *Pand* at Four *per Cent. per Ann.* and that another Million should be Subscribed as a *Joynt Stock*, out of the Profit of which, the *Adventurers* should first deduct the Charge of the Management, then after the rate of *Ten per Cent. per Annum*, for the said Million, and what Profit should be more, to be Divided into two equal parts, the one *Moiety* for the *Adventurers*, over and above the *Ten per Cent.* and the other *Moiety* for the *Poor*.

This last *Proposal* I sent, by another Friend, to Mr. *Walpole*, and hearing nothing for several Days, I wrote the following Letter, Dated the 14th of April.

SIR,

“ I Received from my Papers, with the Answer you
 “ were pleased to give upon them, viz. That the Govern-
 “ ment has often Occasion to use the Bank of England, and there-
 “ fore must do nothing to Disoblige them. I know that it is the
 “ Interest of the Nation to Support and Encourage the Bank
 “ of England. My *Proposal* is to Serve the Nation in an Extra-
 “ ordinary Manner; and I have offer’d it upon Condition
 “ that it shall not hurt the Bank of England. You are
 “ too wise to conclude that I cannot answer the Objection of
 “ the Bank of England, before you know what I can say. I
 “ have discoursed with several on the *Proposal*, and every one
 “ of them apprehend it, and like it extremely, and advise me
 “ to Prosecute it as far as possible.

“ I am sensible that it is of the highest Consequence to sup-
 “ port the *Publick Credit*, and this Undertaking I can Demon-
 “ strate will do it to an Extraordinary Degree, and will
 “ strengthen the *Credit* of the Bank of England.

“ I

" I am told by some of the *Directors* in the *South Sea Com-*
 " *pany*, that the Government is in Treaty with them for *Eight*
 " *hundred Thousand Pounds*, for which they are to have *Six per*
 " *Cent. per Ann.* and a Clause that their *Stock of Ten Millions*,
 " shall not be redeem'd in less than *Sixteen Years*. Sir, I must beg
 " leave to say we are under most wretched Circumstances, much
 " worse than we are generally thought to be in, if this be the
 " best Bargain that can be made, to borrow *Eight hundred Thou-*
 " *sand Pounds*, viz. *six per Cent.* Interest, and pinning the Na-
 " tion down——— If it be reply'd, is there any more easie
 " way to raise the Money? I humbly answer, *There is*; if it
 " be askt, *How*? I answer, I will plainly show the *Way*, if I
 " may be admitted to do it.

" I should have been very glad if the *Proposal* had been brought
 " into the *House of Commons*, by the *Lords of the Treasury*; but
 " since that cannot be, I must attempt it another way.

" Many things may happen, that may cause a *Run upon the*
 " *Bank of England*, in such a Case the *Bank of England* is to far
 " from being able to help the Government, that it cannot help
 " it self. If you please to conceive in your own Mind, a *Run*
 " *upon the Bank*, at this Juncture, how hard would it be for
 " the Government to find Money, and at what rate upon, any
 " *Funds* they could think of to Offer?

" The *Lowering of Interest*, I dare say, you apprehend would
 " be the Consequence of what I propose; and from thence you
 " that love the present Government, can easily make in your
 " own Thoughts, these very pleasing Inferences, That the
 " Government will be enabled to redeem several *Funds*, and
 " have Money at an easier rate than ever they have yet had a-
 " ny; But if a *Proposal* to do all this, and more, for the *publick*
 " *Good* (for until you know what I can say for it, it is
 " impossible to conclude it cannot be) be not worth an hour's
 " Discourse with you, I have but these two things to say,
 " *First*, That I shall please my self with the *Good* I intended
 " and endeavour'd to do. *And next*, That if I had the Honour
 " of

“ of knowing you, I would Conjure you, by the Love you
 “ have to the present *Government*, not to Conclude that second
 “ part of the Agreement with the *South-Sea Company*.

I am, &c.

John Holland,

I have had all along a due Regard for the *Bank of England*, I know it's great *Usefulness* to the *Nation*; and I wish their *Continuance* and *Success*, as heartily as any one of the *Adventurers* in it. This *Undertaking* that I propose, shall not do any of the *Business* that they do; It shall, and indeed must be bar'd from it, for it's own *Security*, by the very *Act* that passes for it's *Establishment*; and so far it will be from hurting the *Bank of England*, that it will be a *Prop* and *Security* to it. And I have no doubt at all, if I may have a fair Opportunity to Explain my *Proposal*, of making the Gentlemen in the *Bank of England* willing and ready to *Promote* it, and to *Convince* all but those who conclude that I cannot answer the *Objections*, even before they know what I have to offer.

It has been told me, by some who like my *Proposal*, that the *Bank* may perhaps offer to the *Government* a *Million* at *Four per Cent*. indeed they are so *Rich* and *Numerous* a *Body*, that they are able to *Raise* more *Money* than the *Government* can find *Funds* to Mortgage for it; but this would not *Lower the Interest of Money*, from whence such good Effects will Issue to the *Government*, to the *Landed Interest*, and to *Trade*; and besides it would neither be *safe* for the *Government* nor the *Bank*; it would not be *safe* for the *Government* to be so greatly *indebted* to one *Body* and *Society of Men*, the *Richest* in the *Nation*; the *Consequences* need not be mentioned, but left to every Man to *Conceive*; nor would it be *Convenient* and *Safe* for the *Bank* to have the *Government* so much *Obliged* to them. They have many *Enemies* already; and it may be *Dangerous* to Increase the *Nation's Jealousy* of their *Power* and *Influence*. Mr. *Walpole's*
 Answer

Answer gives shrewd Cause to *Suspect* that the *Government* is too much *under them* at this *present time*, and the Rejecting a *Proposal* of so great and good a Tendency for the *Safety* of the *Nation*, and so well Recommended, and also *upon Condition* that it shall no ways Prejudice the *Bank of England*; and the not admitting the *Proposer* to be heard one Word upon it, increases the Suspicion.

And now, after all that I have said, it may be expected that I should subjoyn a *Copy* of my *Proposal* at length; but for several Reasons it is not Convenient, and for one Reason I am afraid to do it, and that is, *because those whom I have mentioned that I sent my Proposal to, did not think it convenient it should be seen*; but if the Honourable *House of Commons* should condescend to Command me to lay it before them, I do humbly hope, by solid Reasons, to make out every *Particular* that I have mention'd in It.

April 1715.

John Holland.



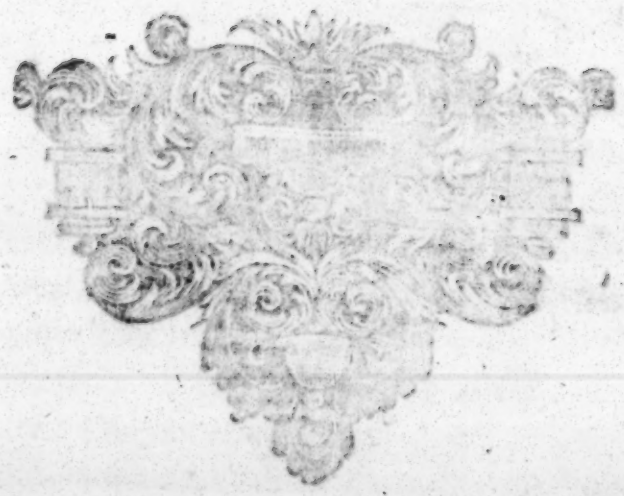
F I N I S.

Answer gives shewd Cause to shew that the Government
is too much under them at this present time, and the Request
Proposed of to great and good a Liberty for the State of the
Nation, and so well Recommended, and also a new Government
that shall no ways Prejudice the Rights of the Nation; and the not
admitting the Proposal to be heard one Word upon it, increases
the Subject.

And now, after all that I have said, it may be expected that
I should bring a Copy of my Proposal to the House; but for
real Reasons it is not Convenient, and for one Reason I am
tried to do it, and that is, because those whom I have mentioned
I am my Proposal to shew that it is not to be done, but to
be in the Honourable House of Commons should consider
Command me to say in before them, I do humbly hope, by to-
lid Reasons, to make out every Particular that I have men-
tioned in it.

John Holland

April 1775



F I N I S

